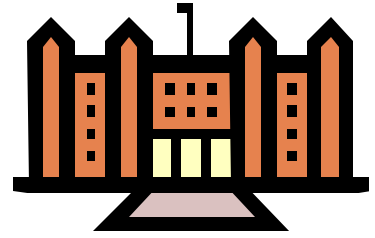


ASBESTOS IN SCHOOLS NEWS

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Lead & Asbestos Hazard Prevention Program (207)287-2651



KEEP YOUR AHERA MANAGEMENT PLAN UP-TO-DATE

As you know, Maine DEP Lead & Asbestos Program staff routinely inspects schools to see if they're in compliance with the federal AHERA "Asbestos in Schools" rule. The most common violation we find is that the records of asbestos abatement activities are either not included with the management plan or incomplete.

AHERA requires that you retain records of any asbestos abatement activities ("response actions") so that your management plan accurately reflects where asbestos-containing materials (acm) are located in the school and whether acm has been handled properly. Whenever you have an asbestos abatement activity conducted in your school, be sure you retain copies of the following records with your management plan:

- The project start and completion dates; the names, addresses, and state license number of the contractor(s); and the amount and type of

(Continued on page 2)

IS LEAD A PROBLEM IN YOUR SCHOOL?

Every day many children in Maine are exposed to lead hazards. Most lead poisonings happen because children inhale or ingest lead dust. Lead dust is created when lead-based paint deteriorates as it ages or when renovations disturb lead-based paint.

Children under the age of six are most susceptible to lead poisoning because their nervous systems are still developing, and they retain and absorb a much greater percentage of the lead they inhale and ingest than do older children and adults.

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WIRING FOR LAPTOPS?

Are you planning to add any wiring in your school as part of the Governor's Laptop Initiative? Any remodeling in a school may impact asbestos-containing materials. Remember to have a "Renovation Impact Survey" done as part of your planning and budgeting process. This survey will carefully evaluate whether there is any asbestos-containing material (ACM) that may be impacted during the wiring project.

You need to do this renovation impact survey even if the original asbestos survey in your management plan does not identify ACM in the area of the wiring project. Some ACM materials may have been missed when the original asbestos survey was done for a school because those surveys only identified visible ACM (i.e., the surveys don't look in chases, behind walls, etc.). If you do not do this survey, unidentified ACM may be disturbed during wiring, resulting in an uncontrolled release of asbestos fibers and a costly clean up.

You should also have any contractor working in your school review your Asbestos Management Plan and sign the following statement to be retained with your management plan:

"On _____, I reviewed the Asbestos Management Plan for the school building referred to above, and thereby acknowledge that I have been provided with information regarding the location of asbestos-containing building material(s) within that building. I also acknowledge that my work-related activities will not impact or disturb any of the known asbestos-containing building material (s) within this school building."

If you have any questions on any of the information in this newsletter or suggestions for topics for future newsletters, please call us at 1-800-452-1942 or check out our website at www.state.me.us/dep/rwm/asbestos

If you think you may have an asbestos or indoor air quality problem in your school, call the Maine Division of Safety and Environmental Services (DSES) at 624-7360. DSES offers free technical assistance and can do a site visit to help you include the cost of appropriate sampling and mitigation work in your Revolving Renovation Fund application.

AHERA Records *(Continued from page 1)*

- ACM removed; a copy of the Project Notification sent to the DEP includes this information.
- A detailed description of the abatement project. A copy of the project design should have all the required information; you can get this from either the contractor or the design consultant.
 - A copy of the state certification cards for all asbestos professionals who work on the job, including supervisors, workers, design consultants, and air monitors/analysts.
 - The waste disposal manifest showing the name and location of the asbestos disposal site (you do not need this manifest if this information is on the project notification in your records).
 - Copies of air analysis reports, including the name and signature of any person performing air sampling, sample locations, date(s) of collection, name & address of the lab that performed sample analysis, method of analysis, name & signature of person performing the analysis, and a statement that the lab is properly accredited to perform this analysis in accordance with AHERA requirements.

In order to maintain complete records of your AHERA response actions, you may need to request these records from both your Asbestos Consultant and your Asbestos Abatement Contractor.

Please remember, these are not all the records you are required to maintain with your Asbestos Management Plan, just the ones we most often find lacking when we conduct AHERA compliance inspections.

If you have any questions on AHERA requirements, please call the DEP's Lead & Asbestos Hazard Prevention Program at (800)452-1942 or (207)287-2651.

Lead-Safe Renovation *(Continued from page 1)*

If you are planning renovations in your school in areas that are regularly visited by young children, you need to be sure that the work does not result in conditions that could cause children to be exposed to lead hazards such as lead dust.

First, you need to determine whether the work will impact lead-based paint. You can hire a Maine-licensed Lead Inspector or Lead Risk Assessor to perform a lead determination in the areas where renovations are planned.

If the renovation project will impact lead, you may choose to require that your contractor have successfully completed a Maine Lead-Smart Renovator course, or you may want to include lead-safe work practice specifications in your contract. These specifications are designed to minimize the creation and dispersion of lead dust and require that the work area be cleaned to a lead-safe standard.

You can find sample lead-safe work practices specifications at www.state.me.us/dep/rwm/renovations/LeadRenoHome.htm. Our website also has a list of Lead-Smart Renovators. Please call us at (207)287-2651 if you would like to discuss these options or would like us to send you a list of Maine Lead Inspectors, Lead Risk Assessors or Lead-Smart Renovators.

PASS IT ON...

Please share these copies of the *Asbestos in Schools News* with other school personnel. We keep our costs and mailing list manageable by sending ten copies to the Superintendent or Headmaster of the Local Education Agency (LEA) to distribute to the asbestos designated persons, principals, and head custodial staff for each school. If you are the superintendent or headmaster, please make sure the newsletters reach the other school personnel. If you need more copies, please call the DEP Lead & Asbestos Hazard Prevention Program at (207)287-2651.

...and KEEP A COPY FOR REFERENCE.

You may wish to keep this copy with your AHERA "Asbestos Management Plan". You may find this information helpful if asbestos issues arise in the future.